

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks. Claims 1, 3-7, 15, 17-24, 27-32, 38, 40, and 42-48 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 18-22, 28 and 31 have been amended. By this Amendment, no claims are added or cancelled. Claims 1 and 18-21 are the independent claims.

Because the amendments to claims 1 and 18-21 present new issues requiring a further search and/or consideration, Applicants have filed this Amendment along with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to ensure its consideration. Any subsequent action other than a Notice of Allowance or Quayle Action should be Non-Final.

Request for Examiner Interview

Concurrently with the filing of this Amendment, Applicants have filed a formal Request for Examiner Interview to be conducted before the next USPTO communication. Upon receiving this Amendment, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to call Applicants' representatives, Jared Scholz, at 703-668-6008 to schedule a date and time for the interview.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 18-21 and 44-48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,870,523, hereinafter "Kikuchi") in view of Tsumagari et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,669, hereinafter "Tsumagari") and Kato et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,477,833, hereinafter "Kato"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

The Examiner relies upon FIG. 40 of Kikuchi as disclosing the “path change information” of independent claim 1. Applicants disagree. According to claim 1, an entry point map includes path change information for managing changing of a reproduction path. Due to the Examiner reliance upon Tsumagari, the Examiner acknowledges that Kikuchi does not illustrate an entry point map. However, the Examiner asserts that Kikuchi discloses “path change information.” The path change information of claim 1 includes a plurality of fields, where each field is associated with at least one of the plurality of entry points.

First, Applicants submit that Kikuchi does not disclose or suggest “the path change information includes a **field** for identifying **whether changing reproduction paths is permitted or not** in relation to the associated entry point” of claim 1. Referring to FIG. 40 of Kikuchi, step S40 checks the **presence or absence** of angle data. For instance, if there is not an angle to be changed in step S40, a message is displayed that indicates that no angle data is present. If there is angle data, in step S42, an angle number will be changed according to the specified angle number on the key/display section 4. Step S40 or step S42 does not identify whether changing paths is **permitted** in relation to the associated entry point. Rather, the method of Kikuchi only looks for the presence of angle data. In other words, checking to see if angle data is present or not is not identifying whether changing reproduction paths is permitted or not. In addition, the alleged “path change information” (e.g., Step S40 and S42 of FIG. 40) is not included in an EP map, which is allegedly the “NSLS_ANGLI” of FIG. 29.

Furthermore, Kikuchi does not disclose or suggest “another field for identifying **where** changing reproduction path is permitted in relation to the associated entry point” of claim 1. In order to further clarify this feature, Applicants have amended claim 1 to further recite “the another field identifying an entry point in a current reproduction path where changing reproduction paths is permitted if the field

identifies that changing reproduction paths is permitted." Support for this amendment is provided at paragraphs [0050-0051] of the application as filed. The "destination address" of FIG. 33 of Kikuchi or the "target audio pack address" and "VOBU start address of Target SP pack" of FIG. 36 of Kikuchi does not identify an entry point in a current reproduction path. Rather, these addresses of Kikuchi are only concerned with the destination address – not the current reproduction path.

Therefore, Kikuchi cannot disclose or suggest "the path change information includes a field for identifying whether changing reproduction paths is permitted or not in relation to the associated entry point and another field for identifying where changing reproduction path is permitted in relation to the associated entry point, the another field identifying an entry point in a current reproduction path where changing reproduction paths is permitted if the field identifies that changing reproduction paths is permitted" of claim 1. Tsumagari and Kato fail to overcome these deficiencies. As a result, Kikuchi, Tsumagari and Kato, alone or in combination cannot render independent claim 1 obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Independent claims 18-21 include features similar to claim 1, and therefore are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. Also, claims 44-48, dependent on claims 1 and 18-21, are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. As such, Applicants respectfully request this rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 3-7, 17, 22-24, 27-32, 38, 40, 42 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Tsumagari and Kato, and further in view of Sato (U.S. Patent No. 5,884,004). These claims, dependent on claims 1 and 18-21, are patentable for at least the same reasons stated above. Also, the Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Tsumagari and Sato further in view of Sawabe (U.S. Patent No. 6,031,962). Claim 15, dependent on claim 1, is patentable for at least

the same reasons stated above. As such, Applicants respectfully request these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

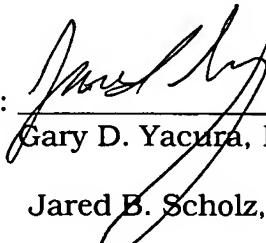
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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